



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

April 4, 2019

The Honorable David Price
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
H-307
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
404 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As the subcommittee develops its FY20 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to prioritize commitment for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, one of the most effective federal programs for growing local economies and for providing a lifeline to families and communities, with proven results. **We request the subcommittee provide at least \$3.8 billion for CDBG.**

Since FY 2005, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has collected accomplishment data for the CDBG program. The data highlight the program's flexibility to design and implement strategies tailored to meet local needs and priorities. It has provided funds in every state, including housing investments, public infrastructure improvements, and economic development, while also providing public services, including services for seniors, youth, the disabled, and employment training.

Despite being a key tool for aiding our communities, the CDBG program, like many programs, has taken a share of deep cuts in recent years, falling substantially—by nearly \$1.4 billion since FY2001. While the program helps more than 1,200 cities, counties, states, and rural areas meet the needs of low- and moderate-income people and communities, funding cuts have severely weakened the ability of grantees to revitalize their communities and respond to local need. We share your commitment to the most effective use of taxpayer dollars and believe that these grants have proven highly effective. Based on the data that grantees have reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development over the past ten years (FY2005 – FY2018) CDBG has:

- Helped over 1.433 million low- and moderate-income persons through single-family, owner-occupied rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, energy-efficient improvements, and lead-based abatement, among other activities;
- Created or retained 419,755 jobs for low- and moderate-income people through a variety of economic development activities;

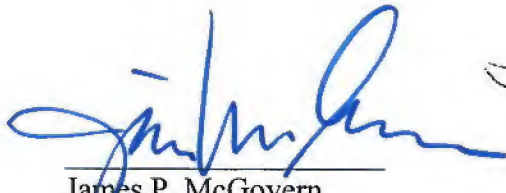
- Benefited over 47 million low- and moderate-income persons through public improvements including senior centers, child care centers, and centers for people with disabilities;
- Benefited over 147 million low- and moderate-income persons through public services such as employment training, meals and other services to the elderly, services for abused and neglected children, assistance to local food banks, and other services;
- **Helped Seniors Live Independently.** CDBG funds are used to rehabilitate the homes of low- and moderate-income elderly persons to allow them to age in place, thereby, avoiding costly assisted living and nursing home care. CDBG provides resources to Meals on Wheels and other local food programs to ensure our low- and moderate-income seniors receive daily nourishment and contact. Further, CDBG funds are used to build community centers to allow seniors to receive health and recreational services to stay engaged and healthy;
- **Strengthened Families and Communities through Homeownership.** CDBG funds are used to assist credit worthy, working families with down payment and closing cost assistance to purchase a home. Homeownership stabilizes neighborhoods, allows families to build assets, and adds to the local tax base;
- **Created Safer Communities.** Local communities use CDBG to work with local police departments and neighborhood leaders to fight crime and make neighborhoods safer places to live and work by creating and expanding neighborhood watch groups, making safety improvements to homes and businesses, and encouraging local police sub-stations to move into high crime areas;
- **Invested in Our Next Generation.** Local communities use CDBG funds to provide afterschool programs to low-income children, summer jobs for low-income youth, and build recreation centers to provide a safe outlet for learning, sports and personal growth.

Additionally, every \$1.00 of CDBG leverages an additional \$4.09 in non-CDBG funding.


CDBG makes its way into the local economy through an extensive network of local organizations and remains a lifeline for families and communities. It is one federal program that touches the lives of nearly every American in some fashion. Over 7,200 communities have access to the funds and rely on the program to enhance their life and community. **Every State, Territory, and Congressional District receives or has access to CDBG funds.** The pressing need in the current economy for these funds remains critical.

While we understand the difficult fiscal decisions we must make in Washington, we appreciate your consideration of this important request and strongly urge you to support at least \$3.8 billion for the CDBG program in FY20 to help grow local economies.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

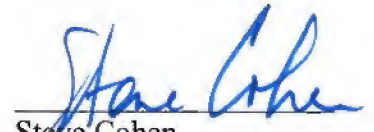


Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
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Mike Kelly
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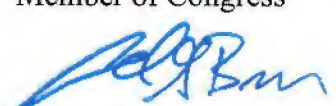


Steve Cohen
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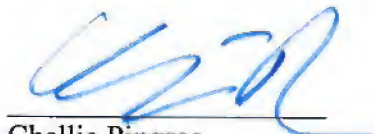


Stacey E. Plaskett
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Alcee L. Hastings
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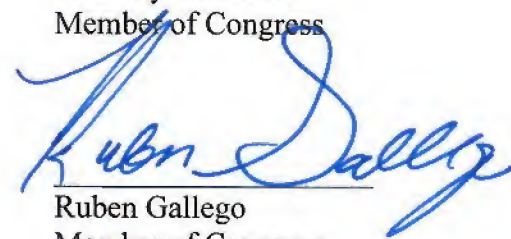
Anthony G. Brown
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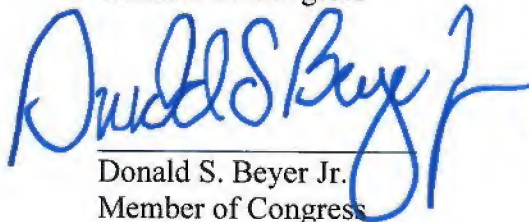
Chellie Pingree
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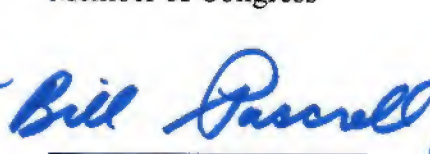
Grace F. Napolitano
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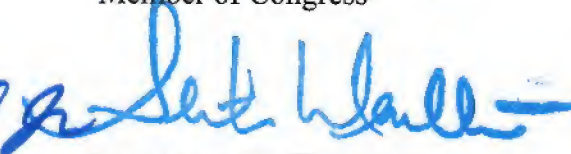
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



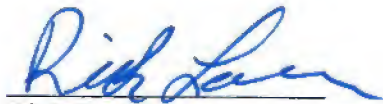
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



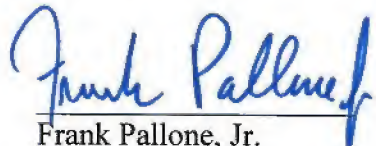
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Seth Moulton
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Rick Larsen
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
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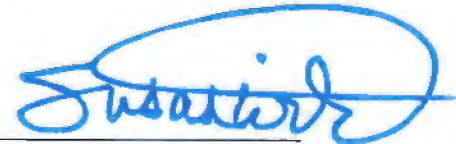
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



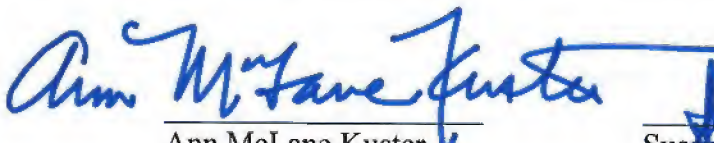
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



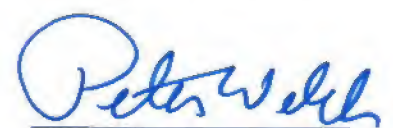
Susan Wild
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Ann McLane Kuster
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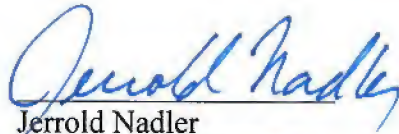
Susan A. Davis
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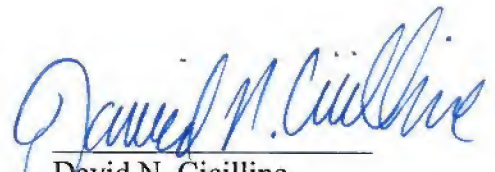
Peter Welch
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Terri A. Sewell
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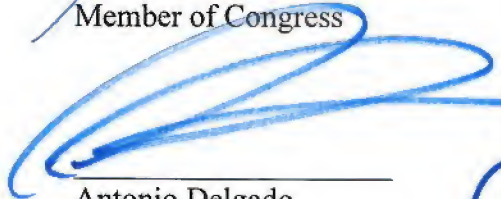
Jerrold Nadler
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Jamie Raskin
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James R. Langevin
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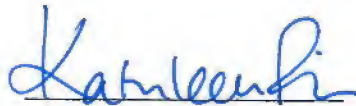
Kathy Castor
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Sean Patrick Maloney
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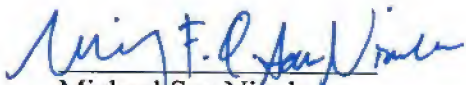
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



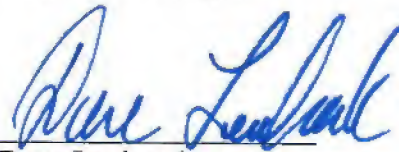
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
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Michael San Nicolas
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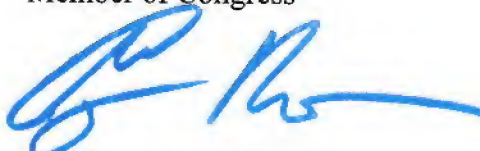
Dave Loebsack
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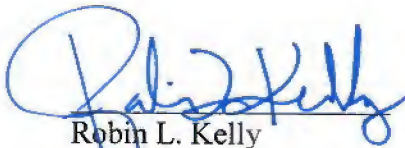
Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
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John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



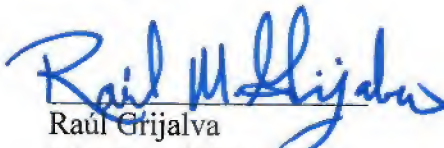
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



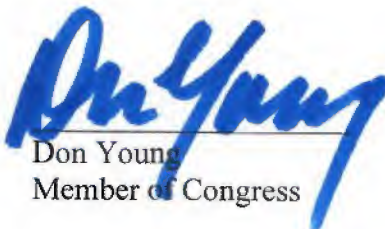
Val Demings
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
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Raúl Grijalva
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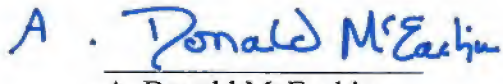


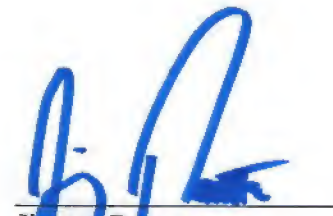
Don Young
Member of Congress

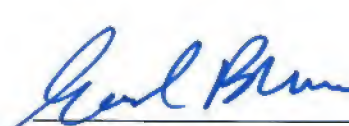



Cindy Axne
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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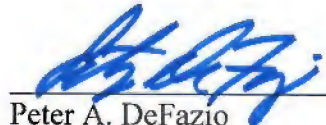
A. Donald McEachin

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Member of Congress

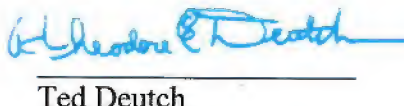

Jimmy Panetta
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Earl Blumenauer
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David Scott
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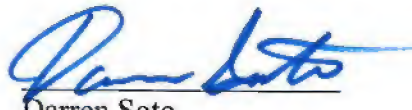

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

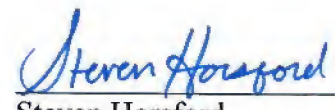

Peter A. DeFazio
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Ted Deutch
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Joyce Beatty
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Marc Veasey
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Darren Soto
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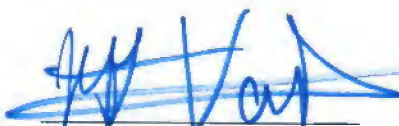

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

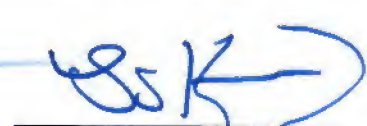

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

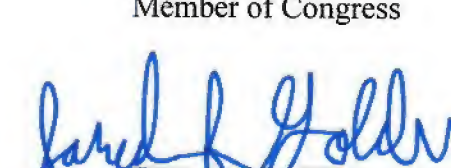

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

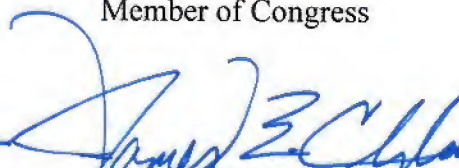

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

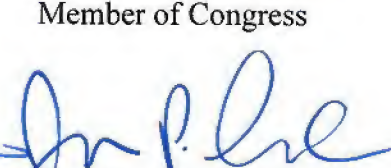

Dean Phillips
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Jeff Van Drew
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Joseph P. Kennedy, II
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Jared Golden
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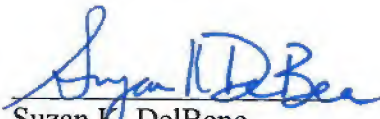

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

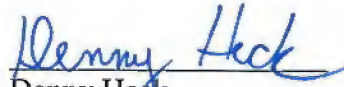

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
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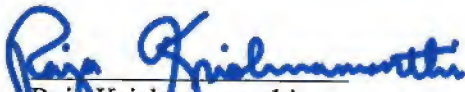

Al Green
Member of Congress

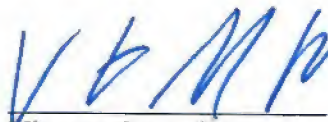

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

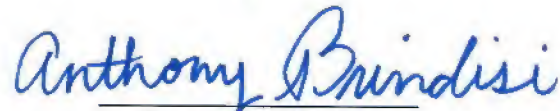

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

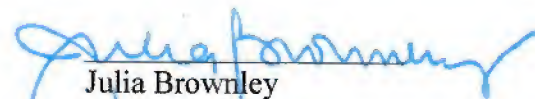

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

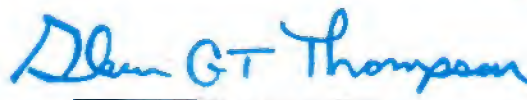

Anthony Brindisi
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

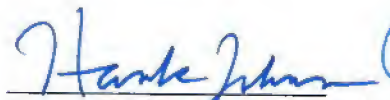

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

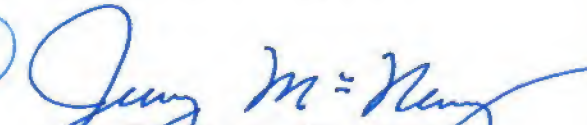

Cedric L. Richmond
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Glenn "GT" Thompson
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Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

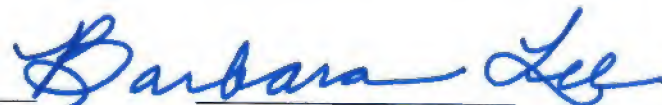

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

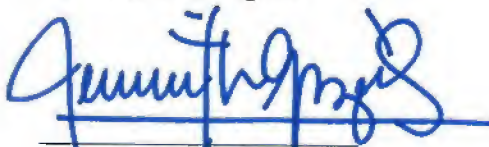

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Mike Thompson
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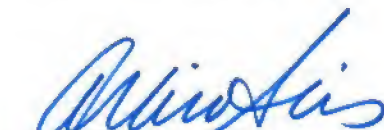

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Barbara Lee
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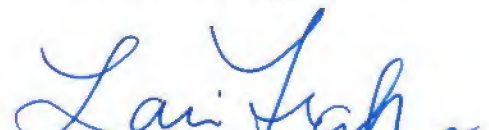

Jenniffer González Colón
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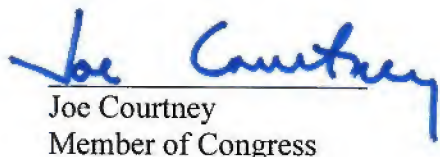

Wm. Lacy Clay
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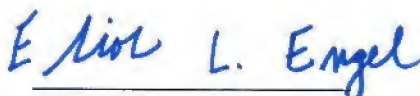

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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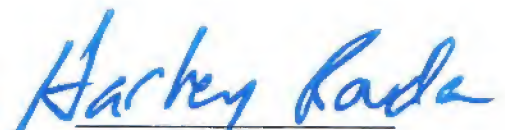

Albio Sires
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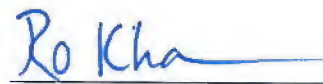

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Joe Courtney
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Eliot L. Engel
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Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

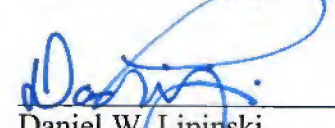

Ro Khanna
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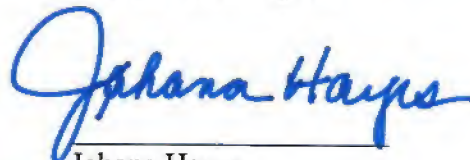

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

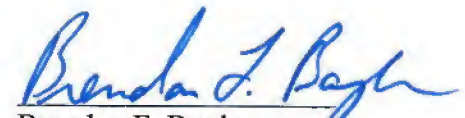

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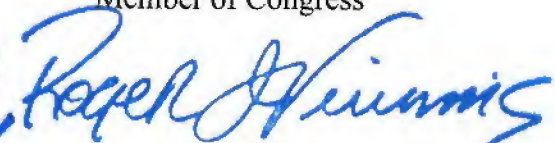

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Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress

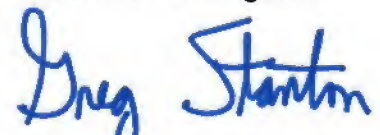

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Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

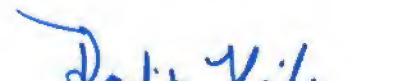

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

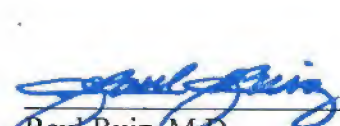

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

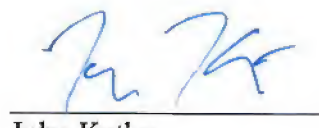

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

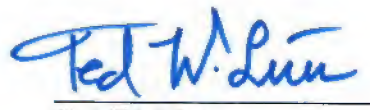

Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

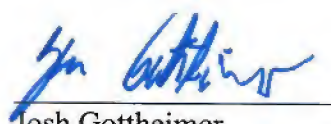

John Katko
Member of Congress

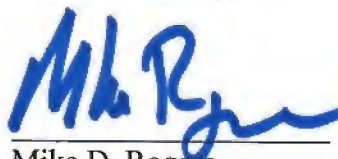

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

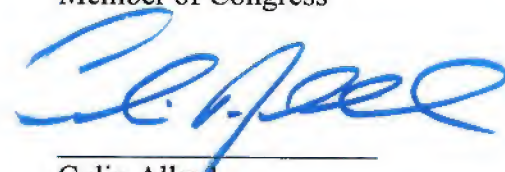

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

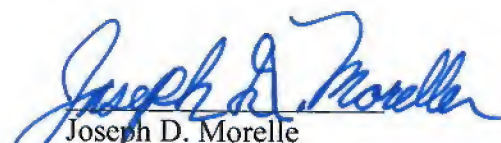

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

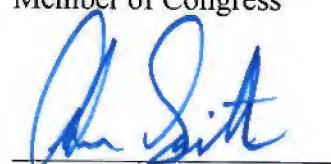

Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress

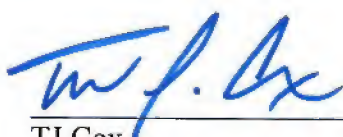

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

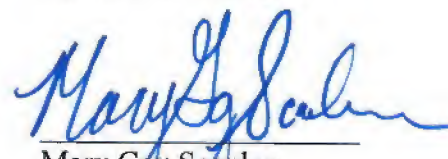

Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress

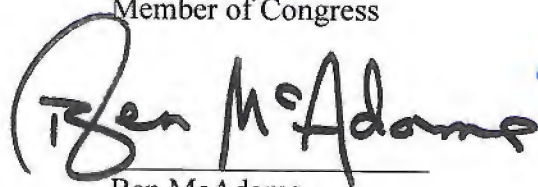

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

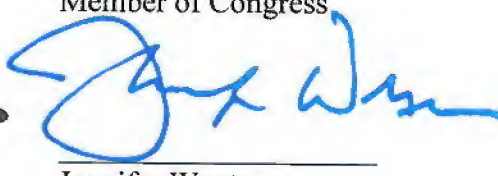

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

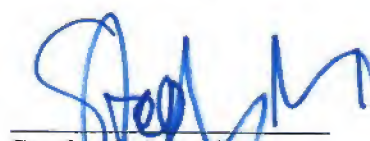

Adam Smith
Member of Congress



TJ Cox
Member of Congress

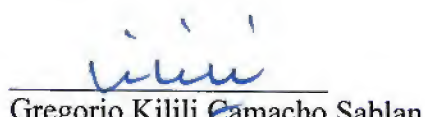

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Ben McAdams
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

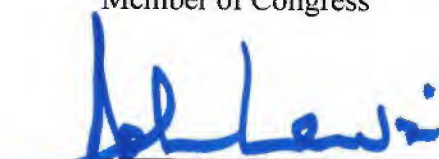

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Katie Hill
Member of Congress


Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress


Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

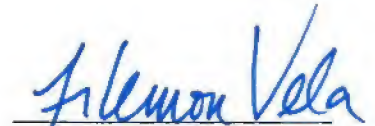

John Lewis
Member of Congress


Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress

Ayana Pressley
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



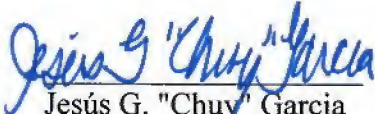
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress




Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



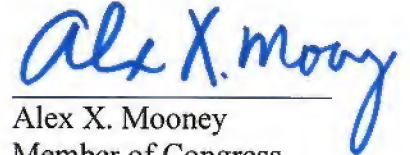
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



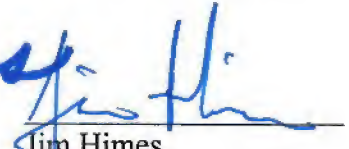
Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



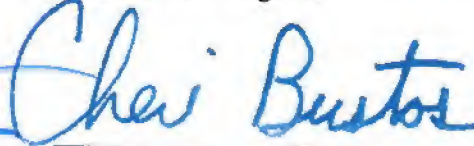
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



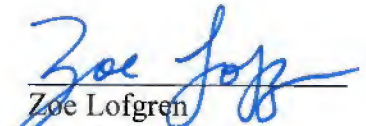
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



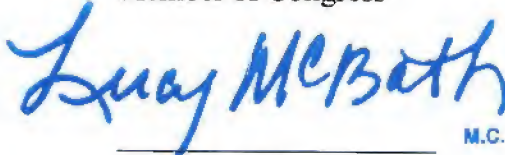
Haley Stevens
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



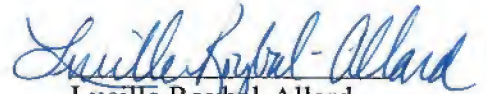
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


M.C.

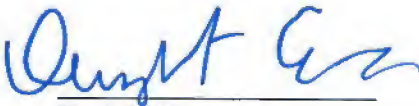
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



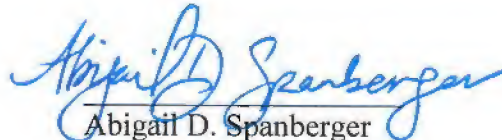
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress



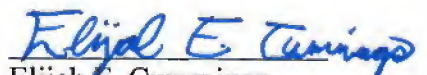
Conor Lamb
Member of Congress



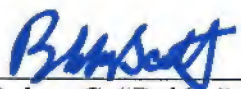
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



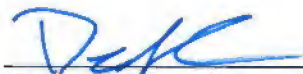
Deb Haaland
Member of Congress




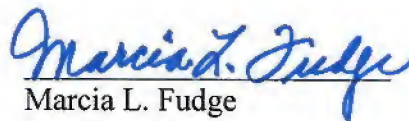
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

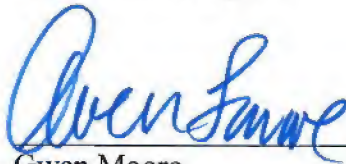

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


Angie Craig
Member of Congress


Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress


Jason Crow
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress